(c) whether incidents of damaging railway property is a routine one and Northern Railway spends Rs 3.5 lakh every month for replacing broken window panes in 9 Shatabdi and 13 Rajdhani Express;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 30.09.2009 local people and supporters of organizations/unions agitated demanding stoppage of Gomti and Magadh Express trains at Hathras. During the course of agitation, train no. 4083 (Mahananda Express) was stopped and hose pipes were disconnected due to which the train could not proceed ahead. The passengers were detrained safely and security arrangements were made by the civil/local police/Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) authorities. The agitators burnt 06 sleeper and 05 general bogies causing loss amounting to Rs. 1,83,56,000/-.

(c) and (d) Instances of damage to Railway property particularly the window glasses are routine, specially in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Trains. An amount of approximately Rs.7 lakhs is spent by Northern Railway per month towards recoupment/repair of such broken window glasses of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Trains.

(e) The following steps are being taken in this regard:-

(i) Important trains including most of the Shatabdi/Rajdhani Express trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force (RPF)/Government Railway Police (GRP).

(ii) Escorting of trains is monitored at Divisional/zonal level.

(iii) At the places where repeated incidents are reported, surprise checks are being conducted by supervisory officers and Gazetted Officers. Local police and GRP have also been requested to take necessary action.

(iv) Regular co-ordination meetings are held with counter parts in Government Railway Police and State Police.

Vacancies in Railways

1826. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 1,75,000 vacancies in different categories in Railways;

(b) whether it is proposed to fill up only 40,000 vacancies; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not filling the entire vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) As on 31.3.09, there are 1,69,813 vacancies in different categories in Zonal Railway.

(b) and (c) As per the policy, railway administration intends to fill up all the available vacancies promptly as per laid down procedure.